UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22167
29 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter, dated 28 January 1991, was addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations. In accordance with the request contained in the letter, the text is being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex

Letter dated 28 January 1991 from the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the statement of 26 January 1991 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I request that this letter, together with the enclosed statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Enclosure

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on "Team Spirit 91"

The United States and the south Korean authorities, in defiance of the unanimous protest of the entire Korean people and the world peace-loving people, announced their plan to stage the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises this year.

The decision to stage this adventurous war game is an intolerable challenge to our Republic and people who have made every sincere effort to ensure a durable peace on the Korean peninsula and to create pre-conditions for its peaceful reunification and is an unpardonable criminal act to turn back the situation of the Korean peninsula heading for détente and to plunge the north and the south into another vortex of tension and confrontation.

This is the moment when the thick ice of confrontation and division between the north and the south begins to thaw and the sentiments of reunification rise to high tide, drawing the attention of the world to the Korean peninsula.

In our country north-south high-level talks were held last year for the first time in the history of the division and compatriots of all walks of life who had been secluded from each other for a long time met at Pyongyang, Seoul and abroad and held a festival of dialogue and reunification, bringing joy to the whole nation and making it see the dawn of reunification.

The world's peace-loving people, to say nothing of our people, eagerly hope that the high-level talks and other north-south dialogues will be held smoothly, and will result in the creation of a new phase in the peaceful reunification of the country in a sustained good atmosphere of reconciliation and national unity this year, the first year of the 1990s.

Anyone who is interested in a durable peace and the peaceful reunification of Korea must refrain from going against the aspirations of the people and the trend of the times at the moment.

Taking into consideration the precedent that the hard-won multi-channelled north-south dialogues were suspended suddenly and that everything returned to the starting point of distrust and confrontation because of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises staged annually, we emphatically raised the question of the discontinuance of the "Team Spirit" on the part of the United States and the south Korean authorities as a pending issue which must be solved as early as possible, and even made such a compromising overture that they cease it temporarily, at least for two or three years, while the north-south high-level talks are in progress, if they find it hard to discontinue it completely.

This proposal of ours is a clear manifestation of the consistent stand of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to remove the political and military confrontation and to pave the way for peace and the peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula on all accounts through dialogue and negotiation.

The world's people who are deeply interested in the solution of the Korean question expected that the United States would not stage the "Team Spirit" this year in keeping with the situation on the Korean peninsula which is oriented towards détente because it voiced that it welcomed the north-south dialogue and contacts.

The United States, however, has shattered this hope and expectation, making much ado about the holding of the "Team Spirit" from the first month of the new year.

The United States and the south Korean authorities who are never weary of contending that north-south dialogue is the main element in the settlement of the Korean question decided as usual to force the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises against the dialogue partner, ignoring our repeated demand. This is an undisguised military confrontation campaign intended to drop the checkbar on the way of the north-south high-level talks and thus break it up.

This also openly reveals their foolish scheme to realize "unification by prevailing over communism" with strength, if their "peaceful transition" strategy aimed at destroying the socialist system of our Republic on the Korean peninsula does not work.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people bitterly condemn the reckless war exercises of the United States and the south Korean authorities as a grave act wrecking dialogue and peace in Korea and peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises are a nuclear war test targeted against the northern half of Korea.

As the previous "Team Spirit" joint military exercises showed, the United States openly posed a nuclear threat to us, practically setting in motion many pieces of nuclear weapons deployed in south Korea through the military exercises and such moves have created this year, too, in our country an emergency situation in which a nuclear war may break out.

While shunning this stark reality, the United States is trying to force us to sign the nuclear safeguards agreement with outcries over fictitious nuclear development by us.

The United States act is based on its brigandish argument that it can sharpen its nuclear stick for world supremacy, while a non-nuclear State like ours must not even raise the problem of removing the nuclear threat but must yield to the nuclear threat of the United States and it proceeds from the attempt to invent absurd pretexts to round off the preparations for a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

The United States continues to resort to adventurous nuclear war manoeuvres, while clamouring about the end of the cold war and the advent of an era of peace. This clearly shows that there is no change in the aggressive nature of the imperialists and in their intention to threaten a small country with the force of arms and to control it militarily.

The United States must remove its nuclear threat to us before demanding that we sign the nuclear safeguards agreement.

The "Team Spirit 91" joint military manoeuvres are all the more grave as they coincide with the unprecedentedly vicious campaign kicked off in south Korea against the north after the outbreak of the Gulf war.

As soon as the Gulf war broke out, the south Korean authorities declared "an emergency wartime system" with outcries over the fictitious "threat from the north" and have incited north-south confrontation and aggravated tensions. This vividly reveals their bellicose and separatist nature.

It is widely known to the world that at the beginning of the year, we put forward new wide-range proposals to create pre-conditions for peace and the peaceful reunification of the country, set out the adoption of a non-aggression declaration as a practical step for détente and have done all we can to put them into effect.

Nevertheless, the south Korean authorities raised a row against the north right after the outbreak of the Gulf war, spreading rumours that the north would invade the south.

This is a despicable act to justify their act in having desperately opposed the adoption of a non-aggression declaration.

Their reckless act is a deliberate move to unleash another war in Korea in the 1990s as in the 1950s in collusion with the United States which has become more arrogant after the destruction of the equilibrium in international relations.

Showing no sincerity in the talks with us, the south Korean authorities have implored for interference and intervention from outside and have now gone the length of raising a war racket against fellow countrymen. This is a graphic manifestation of flunkeyist treachery against peace, reunification and dialogue.

All facts clearly prove that the United States and the south Korean authorities are not interested at all in north-south dialogue but reject the dialogue and scheme to scuttle it and to seek a war, not peace, on the Korean peninsula.

If the United States and the south Korean authorities truly want dialogue and peace in Korea, they should immediately discontinue the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" joint military manoeuvres.

Our people will watch with high vigilance their reckless military exercises and take the necessary steps against them.

If they unleash a war of aggression against our Republic, they will have to pay dearly for this.

The United States and the south Korean authorities cannot shirk the heavy responsibility for leading the north-south dialogue again to a crisis and aggravating tensions on the Korean peninsula by launching the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses the belief that the Governments and peoples of the world's peace-loving countries, international organizations and peace-loving organizations and figures of all strata that oppose war and love peace will direct deep attention to the situation on the Korean peninsula and extend more active support and encouragement to our people in their just cause of a durable peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification against the new war provocation manoeuvres of the United States and the south Korean authorities.